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THE BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

VOL. L.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1854.

No. 1.

SHAVING THE BEARD.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

THE more I reflect upon the mysteries of neurology and animal chemistry, the more confident I am that, while we are the least suspecting it, trifling errors in our daily life are producing important effects upon our corporeal systems; and I declare it as my deliberate conviction that the habit, which may almost be styled American, of using the razor upon the face, is sufficient to cause a large proportion of the lamentable evils which affect the human race in this country.

It appears by experiment that the beard, if shaved, grows from four to five times faster than if unshorn. In this calculation an item is omitted which it is difficult to estimate, i. e., the stimulus given the beard by the first applications of the razor in adolescence, the experiments being made upon beards after they have acquired an unnaturally rapid growth. The effect of this early stimulus may be fairly counted at double the natural growth; then reckoning the difference in size and weight of the fibre, which is treble, and we find the frightful truth to be that we raise thirty times the natural quantity of beard! Thus it is evident that the true beard is exhausted at a very early age, after which the system is forced to supply a substitute. Now nature will not submit with impunity to extraordinary demands upon her vigor, and that which requires her to produce in a life time thirty times as much beard as she was first inclined to, must certainly be considered as such. She is fatigued in proportion to the effort, let the particular kind be what it may, or let it be as moderate as it may; and though her recuperative powers are great, she insists upon having repose, even when working at a rate chosen by herself. If that repose is denied her, she takes her revenge by breaking down the mechanism. Who, then, can estimate the revenge she will take for being compelled to labor without rest under an uncompromising task-master!

2d. The chemical laboratory of man furnishes in just proportion the ingredients required to deposit in suitable quantity the bones, skin, hair, nails, &c., and it is obvious that a superstraining of those chemical elements which enter into the composition of the beard must deprive of their just due all the other tissues which are wholly or in part composed of the same elements. Such injustice to other structures they

must inevitably feel, and the entire system must suffer from a disturbance of the balance of power which was requisite to a healthy action of its various parts.

3d. The proper calorification of the body is one of the most essential conditions of its healthy action; and the non-conducting properties of the beard ought to be a caution against trifling with so powerful an agent, more especially when one considers its intimate connection with the calorific organs of the brain and with the respiratory organs. The popular notion, that, as women are beardless, men may be or not as they please, is founded in misapprehension. A man and a woman form one specimen of the *genus homo*, and from a physiological point of view must be considered one and the same. The absence of beard in woman is counterbalanced by some other differences in her constitution, which it would be needless to point out even if we knew them. It suffices to know that nature is perfect in her work.

4th. The errors of the father shall be visited upon the children unto the third and fourth generation, the tree being known by its fruit, for a corrupt tree cannot bring forth good fruit; which, simplified, is, "like begets like." No person who feels the force of this law in all its fulness, can expect to transmit to his posterity vigorous pulmonary organs, if he has done the best he could to ruin his own. Daughters and sons are by nature equally their father's heirs, and if consumption of the respiratory organs spares more men than women, the out-door exercise of men must in part account for the difference.

The mania which has ever possessed man for disfiguring himself is astonishing. Not satisfied with God's most perfect handiwork, different tribes and nations variously undertake to beautify it, thus fairly making themselves laughing stocks for each other; but it is to be hoped that the "pioneers of civilization" will come out from the category of those who tattoo the skin, flatten the skull, shave the crown, taper the waist, stint the feet, circumcise, and slit their ears and noses.

It is with difficulty that old habits are renounced, even when one is convinced that life can be prolonged and made happier thereby; but it is a question for young men seriously to consider, whether, on starting in life, they will addict themselves to a habit which at once wastes the time, sours the temper, is against nature, and consequently involves their health and that of their offspring.

Nature has made her terms with us how we may enjoy our daily existence and lengthen out our lives; these terms are—to know her laws and not infringe them.

Boston, Jan. 19th, 1854.

HYDROPHOBIA.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

SIR,—Sitting one morning at a front window of my hotel in Strasbourg, I saw a monstrous long wagon drawn up on the opposite side of the wide street. It was filled with wood from the country, and an officer was

measuring it. To do this, it was piled very nicely, so many feet high, and so many long. What most attracted me in this simple operation, was a woman, with bonnet and shawl, altogether a very respectable-looking person, standing on the street by the side of the wagon, watching the unloading of her purchase. She did it admirably, for every unmerchandiseable stick and log was rejected, and at once thrown aside, the peasant who drove the wagon not saying a word in behalf of his rejected wares. The work being done, the refuse wood was laid in the wagon again, the money paid, and sawing, &c., proceeded with.

Soon after, came along another wagon, very large, and covered with lids opening at the ends, as do our offal carts. It stopped, and I saw a man forcing a reluctant dog towards it, and when near enough, another man opening the end lid the dog was thrust into the wagon and the lid closed. I had time to see the freightage of this wagon. It was dogs, of all colors and sizes, and perfectly silent, not a bark or a cry being heard. They seemed amazed at finding themselves in such large company, and for what purpose, for their souls they could not imagine. I asked what it meant, and learned that these dogs were for slaughter; there being a law in France that every dog should be so treated that was found in the street without a string, one end round its neck and the other in the firm hand of its owner. I asked why this law, and was told that cases of hydrophobia had occurred in France, and to prevent its appearing again, this law had been enacted.

In a few minutes I had seen the execution of two excellent laws, both of which were for the protection of the subject. You were certain of your tale of wood, and as sure to escape hydrophobia. France is a despotism. Yes, but the person and property are safe. This is some small compensation for the sure execution of law. How is it with the Republic? Does the citizen always get his wood or coal, in market measure; and if he does not, who is provided to point it out? The mad dog bites him or his little child, and sure death in agony will come to end the terrible strife. You or I may be bitten, and who has a legal right to kill the mad dog? It may be a privilege in the Republic to be free of hydrophobia; might it not be as well to be free of dogs?

I saw yesterday the dead body of a little girl of 7, who had not long before died of hydrophobia. Upon her left eyelid and cheek, and near the upper lip, were the scars of those lacerations, which the poison had entered, and which in about five weeks declared its terrible power, and killed the child. There was something in the expression of this martyr to a barbarous fact in the latest civilization, dog-keeping, which much moved me. There was a smile upon it, a sweet smile, which seemed to say, how happy am I that I am dead—that I am relieved from that night-long agony. Here was death; here was child-killing, and there may be a repetition of the same in this city at any hour. I traced with my finger, gently—for death seemed so like sleep that you almost feared you would wake her—I traced with my finger the scars of those wounds from which she had died, to learn if the poison had left any hardness there. But no; the cheek was as soft as ever, where most marked. The livid red of death only marked the spot.

I went from that death-bed to the north end of the city, and in every street were dogs; in one I counted five, within less than five yards. They were running wildly about, with their noses to the snow and ice, as if seeking for food and drink. They were hungry. The markets were closed, and they found no food. We are told that hydrophobia is a disease of warm, of hot weather. I do not believe it belongs to such alone. We know it does not, for this very winter we have had several cases. Another person was bitten by the dog which killed that little girl. The cause of hydrophobia is a morbid poison secreted by certain glands, from constitutional morbid action, and which may be inserted into the human person by the teeth. Who knows under what precise circumstances such a state of system shall be produced as to produce the poison? It may come at any season. It may be from the starvation of cold and of hunger, and hot weather may excite it. We are never safe. We can have no general law touching such a matter—a law of the supreme government of the nation, so far as any such exists—for dog-keeping is one of the reserved rights—subject, however, happily, like others, to municipal legislation. And how is it possible, in the thousands of municipalities which make up the Republic, that you can reach to such concert of action as may surely abate so terrible a nuisance?

But we may help ourselves. Our own city may do something, yes everything, to protect itself. Most earnestly do I hope that this work may at once be begun. In its completion may be safety.

I have troubled you with this matter, Mr. Editor, because of recent events. But in a late number of your Journal I read a paper by Dr. George Hayward, which presents the disease so simply and so powerfully that I have been constrained to address you on the subject. Why have not our newspapers re-printed Dr. Hayward's admirable article? It is scientific; it is professional. But in these days of universal publication, has not the truly scientific and professional a claim on the widest public regard?

Very truly yours,

Boston, January 22, 1854.

W. CHANNING.

HEREDITARY SKILL IN BONE-SETTING.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

SIR,—No. 25 of the last volume of your Journal contains a communication from Dr. Comstock, of Lebanon, Conn., denominated by him "The Study of Living Anatomy." Taking this for his text, the writer attempts to show that a certain family, of the name of Sweet, has possessed extraordinary skill in bone-setting. That the writer of that article should at this late hour come out as an advocate for such an egregious delusion, surprises me; and I much regret that a man of his knowledge and experience should come to such conclusions from such evidence. Whether the case of the boy whom he saw at Westerly when he "was a student of medicine" was one of dislocation or a temporary paralysis of the muscles from contusion, I shall not attempt to determine. That the boy was seen alive and walking in the streets

afterwards, I have no doubt. And that some individual in the city of New York should have been silly enough to send to Rhode Island for one of the Sweets, is no matter of wonder. Nor is it strange that the fame of this family of natural bone-setters extended to South Carolina, and caught in its meshes the Governor of the State of New York. It is very unfortunate that the writer did not give the names of the fifty-two surgeons who attended Gov. Clinton before Dr. Sweet cured him so suddenly. This case seems to be fully confirmed, to the satisfaction of our historian, by what he considers the unquestionable veracity of Benoni Sweet, and I certainly shall not attempt to deny that Sweet made such a statement, because I know, from a personal knowledge of the man, that he often made other statements of the same kind, quite as wonderful and equally false. And that a certain other "medical gentleman" should have "entertained a high opinion of the skill of the Sweets" from witnessing their operations upon his mother's hip, when he, too, was a "student of medicine," I am not disposed to doubt. I know that in some parts of Rhode Island and Connecticut the common people suppose that this family of Sweets inherit a natural endowment or gift, which surpasses and supersedes all surgical acquirements, and look with contempt upon all anatomical knowledge. In consequence of this unreasonable and unfounded opinion, good surgeons have often been set aside to make room for some ignoramus who bore the talismanic name of Sweet. All this I know; but I never supposed that any man of sound mind, who had a competent knowledge of anatomy, would ever be led to embrace so palpable an error. I thought, also, that the delusion was fast passing away from the mind of the masses—to be looked upon only as some departed wonder; and am sorry to see any attempt to conjure up its ghost again.

I have myself known several of these identical Sweets, not excepting the renowned Benoni. No one of them possessed any knowledge of human anatomy; and I once heard Benoni say that he had never seen a skeleton, and never wanted to. I think he enjoyed the highest reputation of any of the family. It might be because he was not so intemperate as some of the others. I have been present several times where he has been called, and have witnessed his manipulations, and in every such case his diagnosis was wholly false and his manoeuvres ridiculous. I have also seen others of the family operate, and have demonstrated their utter ignorance of osteology. But if you attempt to convince the by-standers that their confidence has been misplaced, you are met with reports of cases which in their view overthrow all arguments and explanations. Take a case in point. A man bruises his foot or sprains his ankle. A surgeon is called, and informs the patient that there is no fracture or dislocation, and advises a proper course of treatment. The patient continues lame, and perhaps a second or third physician is consulted, confirming the diagnosis of the first. His officious neighbors assure him that there must be some bone out, and advise him by all means to send for one of these natural bone-setters, lest by trusting educated surgeons he should become a cripple for life. Some one of this family of doctors is brought; the neighbors, of all ages, sexes and conditions

are soon collected to witness the wonder. If this happen at some country tavern, so much the better. Here the doctor prepares his *own*—not the *patient's*—*muscles*, by taking something to steady his own arm, so that he may be able to give “the nail a powerful blow on the head.” When he has brought *himself* into the right condition, he seizes the limb of his patient, pulls and twists it in all manner of ways, until the anxious bystanders hear it snap and crack, and the patient is fully satisfied that enough has been done. He is now told that all is right, and that he can and must walk. He makes the attempt, and finds he can. The bone-setter exults in his achievement, and perhaps a glass or two more complete his manipulations, and every spectator becomes a witness to herald the operator's skill. “All the physicians about,” say they, “were called, but none of them knew that any bone was out. Dr. Sweet set six or eight in the foot, or perhaps four or five about the knee. There can be no mistake about it; they heard and counted every snap, as bone after bone returned to its place.”

I never knew or heard of a case, where one of these bone-setters was called and found no bone out. Generally they were opposed to operating when any educated physician was present, and some of their most remarkable exploits have been performed, it is said, after all other physicians had been excluded.

It is well known that in many case of sprains, after the active inflammation has subsided, friction and passive motion are some of the best means that can be made use of; and this explains the *modus operandi* of most of their cures. A man has kept his foot upon a pillow a fortnight, and thinks he cannot move it. The bone-setter extends and flexes, twists and rotates it, until the patient can endure it no longer; and thinking surely that everything must be put right after so much agony, he attempts to use the limb. His morbid sensibility has been overcome by the operation; he puts his foot to the floor, and, to his own astonishment, he finds he can walk. He believes himself cured, and therefore, in due time, he gets well.

The beginning of this strange delusion happened in South Kingstown, in the State of Rhode Island, more than one hundred years ago. Whether the first operator was an educated or an illiterate man, is of no consequence now, as it never has been pretended that he possessed any surgical or anatomical knowledge, and it is abundantly evident that the present generation of Sweets are ignorant and rude enough. At the time when the ancestor commenced operations South Kingstown must have been thinly inhabited. Probably its physicians had not much knowledge of anatomy, and no great skill in surgery, and perhaps were but little better qualified to operate in case of fracture or dislocation than unprofessional men guided alone by their own reason. Under these circumstances, the original operator might sometimes have reduced dislocations, and become in his day the best bone-setter in all that region. But I have never heard it pretended that he taught the art to his children, and they again to theirs. On the contrary, they and their advocates say that it is a family gift, not acquired by study and instruction, but inherited and intuitive.

It is said that the Sweets gained a reputation that extended far abroad, and that men in high stations gave it credence. So the tar water of Bishop Berkley, the weapon ointment of Hildanus, and the metallic tractors of Perkins, gained higher and wider celebrity. So Boyle held that the thigh bone of an executed criminal was a specific in dysentery. Bacon believed in charms and amulets, and Martin Luther in the efficacy of toads. And so the deluded votaries of the Sweets believe in the potency of the angle-worm ointment.

I believe the mansion-house of the original Job Sweet is still to be seen near the village of Wakefield, in the State of Rhode Island, an object of almost as much curiosity and veneration as that of Shakspeare or Sir Walter Scott; and there are doubtless among his descendants many respectable individuals. But the mistaken notion of a family skill should be everywhere discarded, and no educated physician should entertain it a moment.

I can readily subscribe to the sentiment of Dr. Rush, to which the writer alludes—

“Truth is the same wherever found,
On christian or on heathen ground.”

But I would always thoroughly winnow and sift the heathen chaff before I took it all for corn.

DAN KING.

Taunton, Mass., January, 1854.

THE PRODUCTION AND MANAGEMENT OF BEES.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

SIR,—Agreeably to your request, I send you the following brief treatise as the result of my observations and experiments on the rearing and management of bees, which I submit to your consideration and disposal.

Having attended to the management of bees during a period of about fifteen years, and having a curiosity to know how the colonies were produced and sustained; together with the various operations which they pass through in constructing their cells and storing the same; I have paid particular attention, as far as possible, to all their movements. For this purpose I provided hives with glass lights, by which means all their operations were easily discovered and ascertained; and by which (among other things) I have brought to light the object of my wish in regard to the universal mistaken theory, that the queen bee, so termed, is a female and the only producer of all the colonies—a doctrine inconsistent and unnatural, to which I never gave full credit, though sustained by the generality of apiarists and writers on the breeding and economy of bees.

Having examined several periodicals, of which the Boston Cultivator is one, containing instructions on rearing bees and their *modus operandi*, I am inclined to think their examinations have not been so effectual as those which I have made. Therefore I shall endeavor to show that the majority of bee breeders are in error with regard to the production of colonies.

Firstly, there must be three kinds of bees to form a perfect colony—males, females, and workers or neuters. Without the two former, there would be no increase of the colony; and by the death or loss of the male, the colony would soon dwindle and become extinct.

There is one bee upon which the dependence of the colony is founded, and by a large majority, if not by all apiarists, that bee is, and ever has been, styled *queen*, of course a *female*, which, they say, lays all the eggs, or spawns as some term them, and one writer (Spencer), says she lays from ten thousand to thirty thousand per year. But his authority at most is but secondary, as he states that he received his information from another apiarist.

I was recently informed by an apiarist that the queen left the hive only on two occasions; one was to swarm, and the other to be gendered by a drone, which he stated was a male; that the queen went out with him into the air and became impregnated by him, after which she returned to the hive, but the drone never did. This he stated to be not from his own observation, but by information from others. I told him this was an erroneous idea, and that the knowledge which I had acquired was sufficient to verify my assertion. A few years since, on purpose to ascertain this point, I furnished a small hive with glass lights, and in it I placed a small late swarm, which amounted to, at most, not over one pint of bees, it being the fifth swarm from one hive. I first laid them on a board for examination, in order to find the queen, so called; and, to my satisfaction, soon found her, but not one drone was found among them. I placed the hive over them, and they readily went up. A few days after this, I caught some drones from another swarm, let one of them into this hive, and watched its motions. It crawled on the floor of the hive for a little distance, when the so-called "*queen*" dropped down and gendered the drone, similar to that of a house-fly. I then put in two more drones, which it did not touch: but on putting in the fourth, the operation was again performed. This I saw plainly, so that there could be no mistake; and it satisfied me that apiarists and others are and have been laboring under a mistake in calling that bee a *queen*. It is a male bee, and should hereafter take the royal title of *king*; and the drones are females, which lay the eggs or spawns. Would it not be an extraordinary circumstance in the order of natural creation, to have so many males for the use of one female? Naturalists must pronounce it an error through ignorance, a phenomenon not known with regard to any other race of animals or insects on earth.

To prove this theory correct, I have dissected this king bee, and with the aid of a glass have found both the sting and organ of generation, both being plainly seen at the same time. Any one who wishes to satisfy himself on this point, may do so by pressing the posterior part of the king bee between his thumb and finger, which will protrude both the sting and generative organ so that they may be seen by the naked eye, which will convince of the fact him who is disposed to make the experiment. An apiarist, who had kept bees for several years, with some others who saw me make the experiment by dissection upon two king bees which I found dead at the mouth of the hives, were satisfied that the hypothesis was strictly correct.

Furthermore, I have dissected drones, or the females, and have found the eggs or spawns in some of them, but not in all. This was in the presence of an old apiarist who had kept bees for thirty years, and also some others who were present at the time; all were satisfied with the experiment, and decided that drones are female bees. The examination was in August, the present season, although I had made examinations some years previous, and the result was as satisfactory as at the present time.

Another circumstance I have observed for several seasons; that is, when there is likely to be a scarcity of honey in the fore part of the season, even in the time of breeding, the bees would kill off a portion of the drones. Why should this be, if they were not females? for without doubt, this civil war is to prevent a portion of the breeding on account of the scarcity of honey. This circumstance took place in June the present year, 1853.

All writers on bees agree that the working bees have nothing to do with the breeding, except keeping the eggs and young brood warm. This agrees with my own observation and experience.

When I first began to keep bees, I thought but little about the nature of them or their operations, until by conversation with several apiarists and the reading of various publications, I began to consider whether their statements were based on philosophical principles, for it appeared to me there was an error lurking somewhere between us; for I could not make it appear consistent with reason and the natural order of creation, that such a numerous progeny of insects of any race, could be produced by one female, impregnated by several hundreds of males or drones, according to the common absurd theory; and I am still surprised that the credulity of man should be so long imposed upon, seeing the fact can be so easily ascertained.

Under these considerations, I began to investigate the subject in order to ascertain, if possible, which were the progenitors or males, and which were the females of the numerous colonies; and I have at last come to the satisfactory and unerring conclusion, that the bee universally called *queen* is the male, and that the drones are females which produce all the young swarms.

APIARIUS MEDICUS.

December, 1853.

RABIES IN ANIMALS.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

MUCH interest has been excited in our community on the subject of hydrophobia in man, from the fact that at least two or three well-established cases of this dreadful malady have existed and proved fatal in our immediate vicinity. The valuable communication of Dr. Geo. Hayward, in your Journal, upon a case of this description, together with the very recent death at the Hospital, would seem to satisfy even the most incredulous, of the existence of hydrophobia in our northern climate, and of the liability of its recurrence.

I propose to offer some observations upon the disease in question, as

it exists in animals, particularly in the dog, having had opportunities of studying and marking its peculiarities during my stay at the Veterinary College, Alfort.

Hydrophobia, or, more properly, rabies among animals, appears to have been known to the ancients. Hippocrates and Aristotle speak of it, and Celsus gives us a detailed description of the disease and its transmissibility from the dog to man. But from their time to the present, but little advance has been made in establishing its true nature or its causes, although much has been written upon the subject. Some authors have classified this affection as one of a purely nervous spasmodic character, others, as one of a croupy nature, while others still, have considered it as a very intense gastritis. Most writers at the present day consider that rabies, that form at least which results from inoculation, should be attributed to an irritation of the nerves of the wounded part, an irritation at first acute and manifest, and then latent; to a violent and sympathetic inflammation of the nervous centres, and to the inflammation of their membranes.

As to the existence of a specific virus capable of producing this disease, there seems to be much controversy among writers. Marochetti, a Russian physician of eminence, has given out the opinion that, after the bite of a rabid animal, the virus which he terms *hydrophobic* is not retained in the wound produced by the bite, but is conveyed at once in its full force to the sublingual glands at the side of the frænum; forming there one, two or more pustules of variable size. The virus, however, only remains here temporarily, the pustules making their appearance from the third to the ninth day after the inoculation. If these pustules or their contents are not destroyed within twenty-four hours of their appearance, they are absorbed, and rabies is the result.

This opinion, however, is not so novel as it would seem, for the Greeks entertained an idea that when a man was bitten by a rabid animal, some little vesicles made their appearance, beneath the tongue, near the frænum. Moreover, the ancient name for hydrophobia was *lyssa* or *lytta*, signifying a worm—which was supposed to be found under the tongue of all rabid dogs; a notion which has still its prevalence, and which in reality is only a small ligament peculiar to dogs, and serves to facilitate the action of lapping.

Although we cannot at the present day doubt the existence of a specific virus, having the secretions of the mouth and fauces as its vehicle, and capable of producing this disease, yet experiments and observations, conducted with great care, have by no means confirmed the opinions advanced by Marochetti. Although the pustules he described have been observed, the probability is, that when present they constitute only a symptom, and it has been shown that they may even exist in other diseases. In a number of experiments made at Alfort, the inoculation of matter from one of these sublingual glands upon healthy dogs had no effect whatever.

At any rate, we cannot doubt the *contagion* of rabies. The facility with which it is communicated by a bite, from animal to animal, is sufficient proof of this. This transmissibility is, however, by no means absolute; or, in other words, it depends upon certain conditions of which

we are ignorant. This contagion, generally so evident in the canine species, does not apply equally well to all animals, for experiments and observations prove that cattle have a greater chance of escaping the inoculation than even the human subject, and sheep enjoy still greater immunity. This undoubtedly depends upon peculiar idiosyncrasies, and that unexplained predisposition which dominates over all pathology. According to Youatt, three out of four dogs who are bitten or inoculated, become affected; and of human beings, not more than one in four. John Hunter entertained the opinion that not more than one in twenty of human subjects became inoculated.

As to the period which may elapse between the bite or inoculation and the appearance of rabies, there is a difference of opinion. According to French writers on the subject, the incubation is fixed at from forty to fifty days; and this is the length of time that dogs suspected of having undergone inoculation are retained at Alfort before they are returned as safe to their masters. Youatt thinks that the animal is safe after three months, although instances have occurred where the disease manifested itself much later.

In regard to the causes of rabies in animals, it has been satisfactorily ascertained that it may spring up spontaneously in dogs, wolves, foxes and cats, but that, so far as observations go, it cannot be developed in other animals without the actual contact of the virus. What circumstances or peculiar conditions are necessary for the production of spontaneous rabies, is not known. The disease manifests itself equally in hot and cold climates, and at all seasons, in the dog well fed and nourished as well as in the neglected. The effects of anger, of the non-satisfaction of the venereal desire, of putrid food, of prolonged thirst, &c. &c., have all been cited as causes; but nothing is established, and we are left entirely to conjecture.

We come now to the symptoms of rabies, as manifested in animals. I shall describe those of the dog more particularly, as in our community he is the one which is most often attacked by this malady. Many of the following symptoms I had the opportunity of, seeing and verifying at Alfort. There were several dogs brought there during my stay, in whom the early symptoms of the disease had made their appearance. Being safely confined in cages, with iron bars, every opportunity was given to watch their movements and the progress of the disease. All of the cases died.

The affection commonly commences with a general prostration, and a disgust for the usual food. These symptoms, at first so slight as not to excite attention, soon augment. The animal assumes a dejected attitude; he carries his head low and his tail between his legs; his eyes become inflamed, while they also assume an unwonted brilliancy; he avoids the light, and seeks solitude in obscure corners; he scratches the ground, and if there is hay or straw he attempts to make a hole in order to conceal his head. He is extremely restless and uneasy, constantly shifting his posture, turning round and lying down. In addition to this, the animal is constantly snapping at fancied objects about him, a symptom perfectly characteristic of the disease. There is also a strong desire

to pick up and swallow bits of straw, hay, rags, and in fact every kind of filth, to satisfy a peculiar morbid appetite. From the jaws flow more or less froth and saliva, and the tongue is dark colored and hangs from the mouth, when the animal is in motion.

According as the disease advances, all the symptoms increase, and there is a general disturbance of all the functions. The animal comes out from his corner, and runs hither and thither without any fixed determination, appearing very strangely, and uttering from time to time peculiar sounds. The voice is hoarse, plaintive, and the note not unlike that of a dog in pursuit of game. The peculiarity of this bark was always particularly commented upon at Alfort, being considered as truly pathognomonic of the disease. Youatt describes this sound as a perfect bark, ending abruptly and very singularly in a howl, a fifth, sixth or eighth higher than at the commencement. These changes in the voice are due probably to the inflammation of the larynx, to the viscid mucus which fills the air-passages, and to the repeated spasmodic contractions of the muscles of respiration. This bark is always made with the head elevated, and, once heard, could never again be mistaken.

The rabid dog soon forgets his master and friends, and if he obtains his liberty throws himself indiscriminately upon man and animals, bites or strives to bite them, and then passes on in his course. Some writers say a rabid dog inspires a fear in all other dogs which he approaches; but this is not well established.

The first access of the disease is of short duration, and is followed by a period of quiet; but other attacks soon follow with renewed violence, the intervals between them becoming shorter, until finally the poor animal expires, generally between the second and the eighth day.

The discharge of foam and saliva from the mouth is not generally so great as is usually supposed, and is a symptom of short duration, rarely continuing beyond twelve to twenty-four hours. It is also present in other diseases, as in epilepsy, nausea, common convulsions, &c., and may be produced even by accident—a singular instance of which I once saw in a large Newfoundland dog, which was found foaming greatly at the mouth. Of course his strange actions and the appearances about the jaws caused great fear in the family to which he belonged, but this was speedily allayed on discovering the fact that the animal had been playing with a large toad which he had taken into his mouth, and which had poisoned him by its secretions.

It is commonly supposed that an animal laboring under rabies has a dread of water. Such, however, is not by any means proved to be always the case, even if it may sometimes occur. The disease creates great thirst, which the animal attempts to satisfy so long as he has power over the muscles of the jaws and tongue. Hence, so far from the disease being characterized by this supposed symptom in animals, it is often marked by their eagerness to satisfy the morbid thirst. A French writer of celebrity upon this point says, "From the first to the last of the disease, I have never observed an aversion in the dog for water. In the early stages the animal drinks as usual, and there are many who continue to do so during the duration of the malady. There are some who, on account

of the tumefaction and paralysis of the fauces and throat, cannot swallow so easily in the advanced stages ; but even in these, the effort to drink produces neither spasm, pain nor fear ; on the contrary, the animal is constantly seeking for water." J. Hunter expressed the same opinion in regard to this matter. Among the animals observed by M. Renault, at Alfort, and all of which died of rabies, not one evinced any dread of water. In reporting a case of rabies in a horse, Desgranges remarked that the dog which inflicted the bite traversed the River Saone. Similar facts have been published in Germany. The common opinion, then, respecting *hydrophobia* in animals, sprung undoubtedly from the fact of their inability to swallow during the paroxysms.

It is important, if possible, to form a correct diagnosis of rabies, as there are many diseases which resemble it in many particulars ; such as tetanus, gastritis, gastro-enteritis, croup and affections of the throat. Among the unequivocal symptoms of the disease, then, may be enumerated the uneasiness and general dejection, the obstinate hiding in obscure corners, the irresistible desire to bite, the peculiar bark, the continued snapping at fancied objects, the swallowing of strange substances, and, finally, the inability to drink, although suffering extreme thirst. When such symptoms are manifested in an animal, particularly if he be a vagabond, we must be strictly on our guard, for our suspicions will be too often well founded.

The symptoms of rabies in other animals do not differ from what we have described in the dog—although the malady appears more terrible in the horse and larger animals.

I do not propose to say anything upon the treatment of rabies, or upon the post-mortem appearances, but must say one word upon the indiscriminate slaughter of all animals that are supposed to be rabid. Where a human subject has been bitten by a dog supposed to be affected by this terrible disease, how much anxiety and suspense would he be spared, if the animal, instead of being destroyed, could be secured and safely enclosed in a suitable place, until the result of his disease was ascertained ! In the great majority of cases it would be discovered that the animal had been laboring under a simple fit, or some other harmless affection, or, more likely still, had been driven to desperation by his *mad* pursuers.

D. D. SLADE.

5½ Beacon street.

DR. CORSON ON IRRITATION OF THE HEART.

[Concluded from page 521, vol. 49.]

In *Chlorosis*, especially in the more excitable of its delicate subjects, or in the earlier stages, with the blanched skin and dark areola of the eye, we have sometimes the irregular action, smart knocking impulse and bellows murmur of an irritable heart. Palpitation, indeed, was enumerated as one of the symptoms of "the green sickness" by Sydenham.

Moderate Chlorosis—Palpitation—Tediuous Recovery.—A lady, aged 25, moderately full, but pale as a statue, with blanched lips, dark areola

of the eye, very sedentary, in deep domestic affliction, with scanty menstruation, consulted me in 1849, in much alarm, for distressing palpitation, and a smart knocking impulse of the heart, diminished by rest, and increased by excitement, with an intermittent neuralgic pain along the right of the sternum, and *without bellows murmur*. After the persevering use of various preparations of iron, with vegetable bitters, mild sedatives, and the local application of belladonna, with regular walking and generous diet for several months, she slowly recovered her health.

Dyspeptic Irritation of the Heart.—This exceedingly common form doubtless depends on what is termed *sympathy*, and this last again is certainly somewhat mysterious. Something is explained by Marshall Hall's theory of reflex, nervous communication, as well as by considering the connection of the great sympathetic system of nerves. The facts are quite evident. An inflamed kidney, a pregnant uterus, or a concussed brain, will produce a sick stomach, and none of these can suffer but the heart and its pulse respond.

Dyspeptic Irritation of the Heart—Recovery.—A gardener, aged 50, muscular, unemployed, and melancholy, was admitted under our care at the New York Dispensary, in August last, with loss of appetite, flatulence, bitter taste, tongue clean and red at the tip, tenderness of the epigastrium, constipation, high-colored urine, pulse 65 and soft, with *palpitation* and a *smart knocking impulse* of a heart otherwise natural. He was ordered a mild alterative purgative, to be followed by five drops of the tincture of *nux vomica*, in water, three times a-day; to avoid indigestible food, coffee and tobacco; to sponge with cold water in the morning, and follow with friction; to walk five miles daily; and in less than a month he was discharged cured.

Congestion or Torpor of the Liver is frequently intimately associated with dyspeptic irritation of the heart. Dr. Hope gives a very interesting case of a lady aged 40, stout, with intermission, palpitation and oppression of a heart otherwise natural, and with constipation, succeeded by bilious stools and *enlarged liver*. Spare diet, and "active mercurial purgatives, employed almost without intermission for two months, brought off an incredible quantity of dark-green and deep-orange bile." Suspension of these aggravated the symptoms. In three months she enjoyed "perfect health."

Hepatic Torpor—Indigestion—Severe Palpitation—Improvement.—A merchant, aged 55, spare, having suffered from dyspepia, and the fear of organic heart disease for many years, consulted me in 1850 for superficial pain, palpitation and a smart knocking impulse of the heart, otherwise normal, with loss of appetite, flatulence, despondency, constipation, clayey stools, bilious urine, shooting shoulder pains, jaundiced dry skin, with occasional turns of night mare, and terrible headache. With an occasional mild mercurial purgative—five grains each of the iodide of potassium, with the extract of *taraxacum*, in solution, three times a-day—followed by iron, with mild sedatives; small doses of the tincture of *nux vomica*; the use of equal parts of soap liniment and tincture of belladonna over the heart; careful diet, brown bread, and es-

pecially recreation in the country, and gardening—in a few months he materially improved.

Gout is, among our active population, comparatively a rare disease, and among the very few cases we have known, we have not happened to meet any decided instances of functional disturbance of the heart. In older and more luxurious states of society, the case is different. Three of the examples of dyspeptic palpitation mentioned by Abercrombie were evidently gouty. One gentleman, aged 48, after suffering greatly from indigestion, and daily paroxysms of distressing palpitation, was at last cured as by a charm, by so small a quantity as twenty drops of the wine of colchicum, in divided doses, daily for a month.

Uterine Irritation of the Heart.—Such a phrase may possibly seem at first inconsistent, and excite a smile; but if that smile make the morbid sympathy between the uterus and the heart remembered, our purpose in coining the term is accomplished. Dr. Williams uses the short, expressive phrase “uterine palpitation.” Every variety of menstrual irregularity, as well as structural disease of the uterus itself, may occasion functional disorder of the heart. Want of space must limit our examples.

Uterine Disease—Palpitation—Recovery.—A lady, aged 26, having four months previously suffered much in an instrumental first labor, called my attention, in 1850, to palpitation, uneasiness, and a smart, knocking impulse of a heart otherwise healthy, accompanied by dragging pains about the loins. On examination with the speculum, the vagina was slightly smeared with leucorrhœal discharge, and the os uteri was prolapsed, swollen, tender and excoriated. Under the use of occasional applications, with a camel's hair brush, of a solution of the nitrate of silver of ninety grains to the ounce; vaginal injections of a solution of extract of conium and tannin, alternated with cold water; twenty drops of a mixture of equal parts of the muriated tincture of iron and the tincture of hyoscyamus three times a-day in a wineglass of sweetened water, porter and beefsteak, she gradually recovered her health.

Dysmenorrhœa—Nervous Palpitation—Recovery.—A lady, aged 24, slender, stooped, strumous, having the remains of former spinal irritation, and having just weaned her firstborn, consulted me in 1843 for smart nervous palpitation and difficult, painful menstruation, declared to be “like labor.” By full doses of Dover's powder and camphor in pills for the monthly paroxysms, followed in the intervals by the daily administration of the tincture of guaiac., after the plan of Dr. Dewees; and subsequently, the still more successful use of a solution of the iodide of iron, in combination with the tincture of hyoscyamus; she regained her usual rather feeble health, and soon after became pregnant.

Irritation of the Heart from Spermatorrhœa in the male is sometimes present. We remember two cases of this kind. One was a young man, kindly referred by a medical friend to one of our chest clinics, in which there was a smart, knocking impulse of the heart; but he unfortunately escaped us both, and did not return. Most commonly, however, it produces *cardiac debility*.

 THE BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

 BOSTON, FEBRUARY 1, 1854.

Medical Platforms.—An introductory lecture by T. Adams Allen, M.D., one of the faculty of medicine in the University of Michigan, on "The Medical Platform," came to hand last week. The author is a scholar of indefatigable industry, who leaves no domain unexplored upon which he enters. Aside from the mere literary talent, discoverable in every page, Professor Allen presents evidences of another character, which show what can be accomplished by study. The simple act of repeating or writing, from memory, the sayings or thoughts of others, is no indication of genius; nor is a recitation from a text-book justly considered to be learning; but deductions from the great mass of truth, and principles resulting from the analysis of a wide range of thought, logically presented, command the approval of all, and those who have the power of accomplishing this, are strictly and truly learned. On the 24th page of the lecture are the following sentences:—"Medicine is to be looked upon and studied, precisely as all other arts and sciences are looked upon and studied. The truths upon which it is assumed to be based, are to be tested, as all other truths are tested; and when they cannot abide the same, let them be mercilessly discarded. A little diamond is better than a rocky mountain. If the science or art shrink by the process indicated, into less imposing dimensions, let it be so! Better is it to be a small but living seed, than a rotten trunk, though of colossal magnitude." Strong points abound throughout the discourse; but we cannot draw as liberally from it as partiality for an excellent man would dictate, on account of the occupancy of the Journal by various other matters. With talent like Dr. Allen's, and the power and disposition to exercise it in favor of medical science in the University of Michigan; if the school does not succeed, the failure cannot be laid to his charge.

The Quack Festival.—An address, in doggerel rhyme, was given before the Medical Society of the University of Nashville, Tenn., in December, by a Western Medical Editor, so says the title page, called "The Quack Festival, or the Dance of Bitches." We cannot precisely take the gist of the thing so far off from the scene of action, but we suppose there is a prodigious deal of wit in it. The verse is smooth and the harmony good; but opening the nut, and eating the meat, are different exercises. The Mustang Liniment, the Pain Killer, and a variety of other nostrums, are harpooned outright; but it strikes us that it is unnecessary to swing a sledge-hammer to kill a fly. Perhaps, by a re-examination, the pith of the matter may be discovered. At present, however, the difficulty of appreciating either the beauties or the delicately-concealed satire, if such is in it, is very probably attributable to a want of poetical organization in ourselves, and not to any deficiency in the work itself.

Georgia Medical Society.—The Transactions of the fourth annual meeting of the Medical Society of Georgia, held in the city of Savannah, April, 1853, have but just reached Boston. Though almost a day after the

fair, the matter is fresh and good, and does credit to the members. They were quite active in business affairs, according to the diary of each session. The main articles, however, which physicians take the most interest in, relate, first, to the laws of Georgia, respecting the practice of medicine and the sale of drugs, &c., which are not essentially different from those of other States. Every one practises medicine pretty much as he chooses, the world over, and laughs at prohibitory laws, which declare irregular practitioners liable to penalties. The topographical reports, by P. M. Kolloch, M.D., of Savannah, embracing the diseases of the first Congressional District, and Dr. Robert C. Word, of Cassville, Cass Co., are specimens of industry, and creditable to them as medical scholars and philosophers. There are also given biographical sketches of the late Wm. R. Waring, M.D., and Ambrose Baker, M.D., and the anniversary address, by J. Harris, M.D., of Savannah, which are interesting, more particularly to the profession of the State of Georgia.

Baltimore Board of Health.—An examination of the annual report for 1853, by Milton N. Taylor, M.D., city physician, and James C. Kinkle, M.D., assistant health commissioner, shows that these officers entertain just and comprehensive views of the course to be pursued by the municipality of a great and growing city. While they reason like Christians, they advise like discreet physicians. There were 5,150 interments in 1853. The population being assumed to be 200,000, the proportion is 1 to about 39. With evident gratification, they say, "We apprehend that no city in the Union will be able to exhibit, in their mortuary reports, a less number of deaths in the same ratio of population. It will be seen (referring to tabular columns), that consumption forms a leading item in the report, and has increased 165 deaths, as compared with that of last year." There were 893 deaths by phthisis; 180 by old age; 256 by cholera infantum; 554 by infantile diseases, and 30 by intemperance. On the whole, this document is useful and instructive even to people far away from Baltimore, and we imagine perfectly satisfactory to the civil authorities and inhabitants of that charming city.

Pereira's Elements of Materia Medica and Therapeutics.—The second volume of this excellent work has recently been issued by Messrs. Blanchard and Lea, Philadelphia, making the set complete. It will be recollected by medical readers that a reprint of the first volume, last season, was the third American edition, enlarged and improved by the late lamented author, edited by Joseph Carson, M.D., of the University of Pennsylvania. The second volume is a large book—1220 octavo pages. The most recent information upon all subjects embraced in the title, may be found in it, and the two volumes include notices of most of the medicinal substances in the world. In a word, it is a vast repository of scientific knowledge, conveniently arranged for reference, and the most complete, in all respects, as a system of *Materia Medica*, ever produced in any language or country. On former occasions, we have referred with pride to the reproduction of this standard work in our country, enriched by the careful oversight of Professor Carson. Illustrations on wood are numerous, and in some instances are artistically executed beyond ordinary displays. Of the learning, authority and position of the lamented author, Jonathan Pereira, M.D., no word of ours in praise of them is needed. He will live in the memory of the profession, while industry, sound science and a faculty for communicating knowledge, is held in estimation among men.—In Boston, copies are to be had at Ticknor & Co's.

Bronze Medal to a Boston Physician.—We notice by the papers that a bronze medal has been awarded to Dr. Durkee, of this city, for specimens of microscopic anatomy and natural history prepared by him, and now on exhibition at the Crystal Palace in New York. The number of preparations is 170. Some months ago we had the pleasure of examining these specimens at several different times with Spencer's microscope, and expressed our admiration of their great beauty and perfection; and now we congratulate our professional friend that his attainments in microscopic anatomy have been so honorably acknowledged by the learned committee to whom the matter was referred. Why do not some of our younger members of the profession come forward in this enchanting field of science?

Diseases of the Uterine System.—C. D. Griswold, M.D., extensively known for his devotion to the interests of the profession and the common cause of humanity, has produced a small pamphlet "On the Diseases of the Uterine System, as a cause of physical degeneracy, with general views on their prevention and cure," abounding in excellent practical suggestions and good sense. We have long been familiar with the author's medical efforts, and appreciate his clear insight into the class of maladies to which this treatise is devoted. Those who can procure a copy, would be instructed by his lucid teaching, notwithstanding its popular character and freedom from technicalities.

Vital Statistics of Boston for 1852 and 1853.—The following statement, from the City Registrar's office, shows a comparison of the years 1852 and 1853, as regards the registration of births, marriages and deaths in Boston:

	1852.	1853.	Increase.
Births,	5308	5596	288
Marriage certificates issued,	2953	3092	139
Marriages recorded,	2686	2838	169
Deaths,	3736	4284	548
Births more than deaths,	1572	1312	

Tracheotomy in Cases of Croup.—One of the editors of the Charleston Medical Journal and Review, in a letter from Paris, to that Journal, writes as follows respecting the operation of opening the trachea in croup, as performed in that city:—

"I may mention that I saw M. Guersent, among other surgical operations performed this morning at the 'hospital for sick children,' execute one for opening the trachea in a child with croup. As you are aware, he does it frequently, but this morning selected the method of Chassaignac, which succeeded admirably. It consisted in a simple incision, keeping the lips of the wound open with his forceps until the false membrane and blood ceased to fill the orifice, and finally inserting the double canula and keeping the external air warm, by means of flannel wrapped around the neck."

Exostosis.—Some months since, we received from Dr. Perry, of Clinton, Miss., a very remarkable tooth. It was a lower molar. The crown was of the usual form and size, but about the fang was an enlargement resembling somewhat a collection of salivary calculus, about the size of a hickory nut.

On breaking it open it appeared to be an extra growth of bone of a loose porous nature, radiating from the fang to the circumference. It separated from the fang quite easily, and seemed to be a growth from the investing membrane. It was readily extracted with a forceps, by Dr. Perry, after two unsuccessful attempts to remove it with the turnkey, by a physician.

We have also in our possession, a very remarkable case of genuine exostosis, or hypertrophy of the cementum, extracted by our associate, Dr. Hill. It is a lower incisor. The crown is deformed, and the fang measures three eighths of an inch in breadth, and about three sixteenths in thickness, and on one side is an enlargement about the size of a pea.

This was also extracted without any difficulty, though a portion of the enlarged fang had been denuded of its covering during the last year or two before it was extracted. This case was evidently congenital, though the one related above was the result of disease.—*Dental Recorder*.

Death from Chloroform—A young female, whose great toe was about to be amputated by one of the visiting surgeons of the Charity Hospital, suddenly expired while under the influence of chloroform. It was some time before she could be brought fully under the effects of the anæsthetic; she finally, however, became completely insensible, and before the operation was concluded she sank and rapidly expired in spite of the most strenuous and judicious efforts of several medical men present. The usual precautions were used in its administration, and no censure can justly be attached to the surgeon or his assistants for the untimely result of the case. A post-mortem was made by the professor of physiology in the University of Louisiana, and all the organs found to be perfectly healthy.—*New Orleans Med. and Surg. Jour.*

Medical Miscellany.—Smallpox is at Morristown, N. J.—The forty eighth catalogue of the Castleton Medical College, Vt., announces the courses of lectures to commence on the last Thursday in February and the first Thursday in August next. It has always had a reputable rank, with excellent men in the board of faculty.—A girl belonging to Halifax, Mass., died lately at the Mass. Gen. Hospital, of hydrophobia.—In the efforts to get rid of quacks, by an act of the Legislature of one of our distant States, the rumor is that the character of the reformatory process is calculated to multiply them rapidly.—Frank H. Kelley, M.D., is the new editor of the Worcester Journal (Botanic) of Medicine.—The following gentlemen have been chosen Officers of the Boylston Medical Society in this city, for the ensuing year: President, Calvin Ellis, M.D.; Vice President, Samuel A. Green; Secretary, Henry K. Oliver, Jr.

DIED.—At Bellows Falls, Vt., John H. Wells, M.D., 70.—At Philadelphia, Dr. Robert Montgomery, aged 49.

Deaths in Boston for the week ending Saturday noon, Jan. 28th, 89. Males, 43—females, 46. Abscess, 1—accidents, 3—apoplexy, 3—inflammation of the bowels, 1—congestion of the brain, 1—disease of the brain, 2—consumption, 15—convulsions, 1—croup, 6—dysentery, 1—dropsy, 1—dropsy in the head, 2—debility, 1—infantile diseases, 5—puerperal, 1—scarlet fever, 3—gravel, 1—fracture of the skull, 1—frozen, 1—hooping cough, 3—hydrophobia, 1—hemorrhage, 2—intemperance, 1—inflammation, 1—inflammation of the lungs, 5—disease of the liver, 1—measles, 13—old age, 1—palsy, 2—pleurisy, 2—scrofula, 1—smallpox, 3—teething, 1—worms, 1—unknown, 1.

Under 5 years, 34—between 5 and 20 years, 13—between 20 and 40 years, 23—between 40 and 60 years, 12—above 60 years, 7. Born in the United States, 66—Ireland, 21—British Provinces, 1—Germany, 1.

Mortality of Stamford, Conn.—Dr. Chauncey Ayres gives the following abstract of the bill of mortality for the town of Stamford, during the last year, which we extract from the Stamford Advocate.

"The whole number of deaths in Old or South Stamford, embracing a population of 4,500, during the last year, was 45, or one in a hundred. Of the above number, 5 were transient persons, and 5 of the remainder were natives, but who resided in other places and came here in the last stages of consumption to end their days.

"There were three premature births which were not added to the above list.

"Of the 45 deaths, 32 were Americans, viz., 12 adult males, 13 adult females, and 7 children. Of the males, 6 were married and 6 single. Of the females, 10 were or had been married and 3 single. Of the Irish who died, 3 were males, 4 females and 3 children. Of the Germans, 1 was an aged female and the other a child. The Colored, was a transient infant.

"There died in January, 1; February, 2; March, 3; April, 5; May, 3; June, 5; July, 2; August, 3; September, 10; October, 7; November, 4; December, 3.

"*Diseases.*—Consumption, 13; typhus fever, 7; bilious remittent fever, 1; croup, 2; debility and old age, 3; marasmus, 4; whooping cough, 1; pneumonia or lung fever, 3; inflammation of the brain, 1; paralysis, 1; erysipelas, 2; scirrhus liver, 1; cancer uteri, 1; hemorrhage, 1; sunstroke, 1."

Early appearance of the Catamenia.—By P. VAN PATTEN, M.D., of Walnut Camp, Ark.—During the month of July, ult., I was called to attend and prescribe for Mary E. P——, æt. 12 years. I found the patient laboring under intermittent fever, anæmic, debilitated, and possessing an enlarged spleen. While exhibiting the remedies indicated by her apparent condition, the mother remarked that she could acquaint me with facts relative to her daughter, which to me, as a physician, might prove interesting. Manifesting a desire to be informed, she proceeded to state that her child had, during the preceding three or four months, been visited with a copious epistaxis, occurring at intervals of about four weeks each; that anterior to the first appearance of the epistaxis, she had menstruated regularly since the age of *three years*. The girl is of lymphatico-bilious temperament, diminutive in stature, and of medium muscular development; remarkable to the beholder, alone, for the dignified bearing and matronly conduct, as contrasted with her insignificant physical proportions. The external genitalia are large; no epidermic evidences of puberty present, the mons veneris and labia majora in that respect evincing adolescence. The mammæ have always been strikingly prominent. In color, fluidity, quantity, &c., the periodic flow has been quite uniform—each appearance preceded and accompanied by the sensations common to the catamenial juncture. About two weeks ago the menstrual molimen occurred as before; subsequently her health has improved rapidly.

In this instance, we have a case of premature special development co-existing with perfect functional power and action in an organism far removed from puberty; while the periodicity of the manifestations, together with the almost uniform health of the subject, demonstrate the presence of no abnormal condition. To aver the ova of such a child to be susceptible of impregnation, would be a labor of supererogation,—the legitimate presumption, however, is in favor of an affirmative opinion. *Query*: If the discharges regarded as menstrual, were *de facto*, not truly such, to what shall we refer them; were they evidences of disease?—*Iowa Med. Jour.*